

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A tread has an equatorial centerplane CP and a plurality of tread elements, the tread ~~element~~ elements being oriented into a first shoulder row, a second shoulder row and a central ~~array~~ arrays of tread elements, the tread characterized in that:

each central array forms a repeating substantially elongate inclined S-shaped pattern of tread elements wherein each array has at least five tread elements distinct in size, shape or orientation relative to adjacent tread elements, the array extends from a first end adjacent the first shoulder row or the second shoulder row crossing the equatorial centerplane CP to a second end adjacent the opposite shoulder row, each array has a centerline L inclined less than 45° relative to the equatorial center plane of the tread, the centerline L passes through the first and second ends at circumferential extremes of the array.

2. (original) The tread of Claim 1 wherein each array has at least 10 tread elements forming the repeating pattern.

3. (original) The tread of Claim 2 wherein each array has fifteen or more tread elements forming the repeating pattern.

4. (currently amended) The tread of Claim 1 wherein each array is spaced from an adjacent array by a first continuous and curvilinear boundary groove and a second continuous and curvilinear boundary groove extending from the first shoulder row of tread elements and the second row of tread elements respectively, the first boundary groove and second boundary groove intersecting at circumferential extremes of the array.

5. (original) The tread of Claim 4 wherein the tread is pitched including three or more distinct pitch lengths arranged in a noise reducing sequence and each array extends circumferentially across at least one or more pitches.

6. (currently amended) The tread of Claim 1 wherein each array forms a large distinctive repeating mosaic shape formed by ~~many~~ at least five smaller tread elements of

different sizes, shapes or orientation.

7. (original) The tread of Claim 1 wherein the centerline L of the array is inclined circumferentially less than 30° relative to the equatorial centerplane CP.

8. (currently amended) The tread of Claim 1 wherein the tread pattern is nondirectional and symmetrical ~~and circumferentially adjacent the central arrays are turned oppositely but inclined similarly.~~

9. (original) The tread of Claim 1 wherein the tread pattern is asymmetric wherein the circumferentially adjacent central arrays are the same and oriented equally.

10. (canceled)

11. (new) A tread has an equatorial centerplane CP and a plurality of tread elements, the tread elements being oriented into a first shoulder row, a second shoulder row and central arrays of tread elements, the tread characterized in that:

each central array forms a repeating pattern of tread elements wherein each array has at least five tread elements distinct in size, shape or orientation relative to adjacent tread elements, the array extends at an angled incline from a first tapered end adjacent the first shoulder row or the second shoulder row crossing the equatorial centerplane CP to a second tapered end adjacent the opposite shoulder row, each array has a centerline L inclined less than 45° relative to the equatorial center plane of the tread, the centerline L passes through the first and second ends at circumferential extremes of the array.

12. (new) The tread of Claim 11 wherein each array is substantially S-shaped and has a plurality of tread elements forming the repeating pattern.

13. (new) The tread of Claim 11 wherein the first and second tapered ends of each array project furthestmost from opposite respective lateral sides of the centerline L and each tapered end comprising at least one relatively smaller tread element.

14. (new) The tread of Claim 11 wherein each array is spaced from an adjacent array by a first boundary groove and a second boundary groove extending from the first shoulder row of tread elements and the second row of tread elements respectively, the first boundary groove and second boundary groove converging at an acute angle and intersecting at the tapered first and second ends of the array.

15. (new) The tread of Claim 14 wherein the first and second boundary grooves are inclined and substantially S-shaped following the outer boundary of the array.

16. (new) The tread of Claim 15 wherein each array forms a large distinctive repeating mosaic shape formed by at least five smaller tread elements of different sizes, shapes or orientation.

17. (new) A tread has an equatorial centerplane CP and a plurality of tread elements, the tread elements being oriented into a first shoulder row, a second shoulder row and central arrays of tread elements, the tread characterized in that:

each central array forms a repeating pattern of tread elements wherein each array has a plurality of tread elements distinct in size, shape or orientation relative to adjacent tread elements, the array includes opposite elongate sides that extend at an angled incline from a tapered first end adjacent the first shoulder row or the second shoulder row crossing the equatorial centerplane CP to a second tapered end adjacent the opposite shoulder row, each array has a centerline L inclined less than 45° relative to the equatorial center plane of the tread, the centerline L passes through the first and second ends at circumferential extremes of the array, and the first and second shoulder rows comprising individual blocks of tread elements having inwardly directed inclined surfaces complementary shaped and angled with respect to sides of the array.

18. (new) The tread of claim 17 wherein each array is spaced from an adjacent array by a first boundary groove and a second boundary groove extending from the first shoulder row of tread elements and the second row of tread elements respectively, the first boundary groove and second boundary groove converging at an acute angle and intersecting at the first and second ends of the array.

19. (new) The tread of claim 18, wherein the first and second boundary grooves are substantially an elongate inclined S-shape and complementarily follow the sides of the array.

20. (new) The tread of claim 17, wherein the first and second ends of each array are tapered and project furthestmost from opposite respective lateral sides of the centerline L.

21. (new) The tread of claim 20, wherein the array is substantially an elongate inclined S-shape having curvilinear elongate sides.

The above amendments and newly submitted claims 11-21 are supported by the original specification